

REMARKS

In response to the above-mentioned final Office Action in this application, Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination, and has amended the claims as presented herein in order to clarify the patentable distinctions of Applicant's invention as compared to the cited Nomura, Yonemoto, Kozuka, and Tanaka patents which were relied upon as rejecting references.

In particular, Applicant has added detailed requirements for a driving circuit to independent Claim 14, and detailed method steps related thereto have been added to Claim 20, wherein that driving circuit is described in the Specification in connection with circuits 71 and 72, as depicted in Fig. 15. According to amended Claim 14, the output lines from the pixels are reset, after which first signals are obtained when the gates of the field effect transistors are reset, and those signals are transferred to the output lines. Then, the current first switches are turned on to again reset the output lines while transferring the photocharge signals to the gates of the field effect transistors, whereafter second signals are transferred from the field effect transistors to the output lines.

In contrast, the Nomura patent, relied upon as the principal rejecting reference, discloses that the vertical lines 202A and 202B are reset to ground voltage (Col. 39, lines 18-25). Moreover, the solid-state image pickup device as shown in Fig 16 of Nomura is described in connection with Fig. 17 thereof. From these drawings it will be appreciated that the solid-state image sensing apparatus of the present application differs from Nomura in both structure and method of operation. Specifically, as shown in Nomura's Fig. 17, when the signal ϕ RSV is low, the MOS transistors TR_{v1} and TR_{v2} are turned off, once for each row, whereas the output lines of the present application are reset

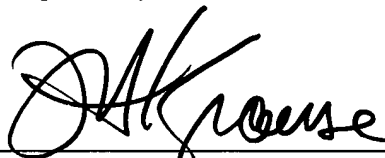
twice to read out photocharge signals from each pixel. Similarly, Yonemoto's solid-state imaging device operates as shown in Fig. 5 or 8, and the vertical signal lines are reset once for each row.

Accordingly, the combination of Nomura and Yonemoto does not disclose or suggest the driving circuit of amended Claim 14 or the method of amended Claim 20.

For these various reasons, Applicants respectfully solicit the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance in this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. K. House", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200